

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair is obligated to serve the public interest. In the present matter, however, the company is forcing affiliate stations to air a "documentary", commercial free, in order to serve its own political interests rather than the interests of the public at large. Mass media broadcasters must maintain objectivity and high standards of accuracy when reporting news that can have significant political consequences. The recent fiasco with CBS over the accuracy of purported memos that were made public, demonstrates that broadcasters must take every precaution before representing certain allegations as being true. Sinclair's present intentions are an affront to democracy in the mass media.

Respectfully submitted